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Note verbale dated 6 September 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It has the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 5 July 2011 from Mr. Hoshyar Zebari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex), regarding the press statement on missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and Kuwaiti property issued on 22 June 2011.

It would be greatly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 6 September 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Republic of Iraq

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Minister's Office

5 July 2011

With regard to the Security Council press statement of 22 June 2011 on the issue of missing Kuwaiti nationals and Kuwaiti property, we would like to draw attention to the following:

- The Government of Iraq, in keeping with its desire to strengthen relations with the State of Kuwait, has demonstrated full cooperation at all levels. Great strides have consequently been made towards resolving the issue of missing Kuwaiti nationals and Kuwaiti property. Moreover, committees have been established in order to deal with this issue and are making good progress.

- My Government has demonstrated its resolve to find a solution to the issue of missing Kuwaiti property. In that connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs circulated a letter to all ministries and institutions requesting that they should report any relevant information or documents that belong to the State of Kuwait. Moreover, an advertisement was run in Iraqi newspapers calling on citizens who might have information on such documents to so inform the authorities.

- Two committees have been established in order to follow up those matters. I am the Chairman of one of the committees, which has as members the Ministers of Oil, Finance and the Interior. This committee is responsible for all outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait. The other committee was formed within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is responsible for returning any Kuwaiti property and archives. In addition to the above-mentioned committees, the Joint Iraq-Kuwait Ministerial Committee began its work in April 2011.

- In view of the foregoing, we do not believe that it is necessary to extend the High-level Coordinator's mandate, which expires on 31 December 2011. We should rely, instead, on the bodies specified below, through which we can work more effectively for the benefit of both our countries:

  (a) The Tripartite Commission: This body is the primary mechanism for determining the fate of persons missing after the Gulf war of 1990-1991. Iraq, Kuwait and the International Committee of the Red Cross continue to participate in the work of the Commission.

  (b) In our letter to you dated 26 November 2010, we proposed the formation of a technical team that would operate from the Kuwait Embassy in Baghdad and have responsibility for following up this issue with the relevant Iraqi authorities. Our proposal was welcomed by all Security Council

members, as reflected in the Council press statement that was issued on 17 December 2010.

The Government of Iraq is determined to resolve all outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait, and continues to demonstrate that it is taking the measures that are required to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions. It also understands that the building of confidence between the two countries is essentially prompted by the desire to develop relations in a manner that serves the interests of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples.

(*Signed*) Hoshyar **Zebari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs